

TASMANIAN U F O INVESTIGATION CENTRE  
NEWS LETTER MAY 1976 (No.18)

MAYDENA'S MYSTERY LIGHTS

To be on the spot during a sightings flap would be the objective of any UFO group TUFOIC has been in such a position with the Maydena reports. Sightings have been received by the Centre almost as they occurred whilst the area has been visited and witnesses contacted the day after the sightings.

Wayne Thorpe telephoned the Centre within minutes of sighting two orange lights on the night of February 17th at 10.15 p.m. This was the first of the Maydena reports. Briefly four witnesses had seen the two lights approaching from the north-east, then they slowed as they moved over the Maydena Range to the east of the town. One light suddenly went down towards a rough clearing above Fitzgerald, it went out or disappeared near the ground, then its stationary companion light in the sky just shot up and was lost from sight.

An identical sighting was discovered whilst on a field trip to Maydena, this time on the 19th at 10.p.m. Mr. A. Walker saw two orange lights travelling slowly almost drifting over the Maydena Range east of the town. This time however the lights came lower as both side by side became stationary for two to three minutes in front of the range near Fitzgerald. Then one light started to slowly drop towards the clearing above Fitzgerald but it went out when on or near the ground. The companion light then went up and disappeared.

The night of Saturday 21st/Sunday 22nd brought the first multiple-witness report from Maydena. This time it was nearly midnight when men outside the RSL Club saw two orange/red lights one above the other moving west just above Abbotts Look Out, one of the high points on the Maydena Range. The large star-sized lights were seen to be just below the hillline by some witnesses. Another witness heard a faint humming sound.

The two lights seemed to gradually close together to the south-west of the town then one sped off to the south-west whilst the other remained visible and eventually just faded from view.

There was another report on the Sunday night at 10.35 p.m., this time just a lone orange star-like light passed over the town; one witness with binoculars said it seemed to have a dome on the top.

For the first time on February 25th the lights were seen in other than fine conditions. This time they came from over Abbotts Look Out but passed beneath some cloud above the Maydena Range. Again the lights were one above the other and maintained their position as they were viewed for 5 or 6 minutes. They gradually faded away south-west of Maydena as if travelling away into the far distance.

"Hundreds Watch UFO's at Maydena" headlined the Hobart Mercury reporting the major sighting at Maydena on Feb. 26th at 10.55p.m. Geoff Marshall, whose assistance to the Centre has been invaluable, was one of the residents who told us of the sighting. The church bell was rung when the lights were first seen and as a result practically everyone within earshot was out in the streets to see the by now famous lights.

The first light seemed to appear from straight down the valley gaining elevation as if in a power climb. Within 10 seconds the familiar companion light was seen climbing from down the valley towards National Park. The 2nd light took a shallower trajectory and consequently closed on the 1st light as they went almost overhead. Constable Lowery and others saw a white object fall from the leading UFO but whatever it was just went out after falling a short distance.

A number of people tried to take photographs, but as far as we know without success. Many others viewed the lights with binoculars & telescopes, most just saw big lights the usual orange/red colour. One witness thought there were 2 lights making up the leading UFO, a softer orange light at the front, a squiggly-lined area behind this, & a very bright orange/yellow light at the back. The lights this time definitely changed direction and moved off to the south or south-west. One light went over the horizon; the other just faded out as it had done on earlier occasions.

The Centre spent the March long weekend visiting Maydena and gathering as much information as possible on the sightings. In actual fact there were just too many witnesses for us to see everyone. Mike Lown stayed up there one night but saw nothing., then your Secretary and Correspondence Officer had a fruitless night at Bushy Park. A sightings night was programmed for the area on March 27th but due to 100% overcast didn't go, yes, that's right—the lights put in a fly-past over the town that very night.

However the 2 UFO's were seen well before that on March 10th at 11.10p.m. One light following the other they headed from south west towards the north east, Mr. Sargison called to Mr. Francombe who in turn contacted some friends at Westerway who saw the 2 lights over Mt. Field East. They passed beneath cumulus clouds at 5000 ft. That same night a strange orange/red light was seen moving in a gully at Ellendale near Mt. Field East.

March 27th the 2 lights were roughly on the flight path of February 26th and once again the church bell was rung. This time however the sky was overcast with cloud down to 3000 ft; this means the lights were no more than 2000ft above the town (Town about 900ft) This time the lights didn't alter course but just travelled away over the hill to the south west. The Mercury on March 30th reported that the RAAF would inquire into the phenomena. The last two sightings of the lights have been from isolated witnesses in the town, one on March 30th the other April 14th, both times the lights have been going N-east.

OTHER SIGHTINGS TOO.....

Over 50 sightings were investigated by the Centre in the first 3 months of this year, brief details on the reports are listed below.

1973 April Bothwell. Witnesses on a farm near Bothwell see light on hill near farm, go to investigate but it disappears. Soon after when all in bed, humming sound heard and house lit up. Look out and see bright white square object with dome top approaching. It curves past farm then goes away to west diminishing to star size.

1974 October 29th. South Queenstown. Mrs. Kremmer and family were catching frogs for fishing about 8.30pm. Saw sisters car approaching half a mile away, could see there was a square object made up of white and red lights pacing car. Object hovers over car for a minute then speeds off over nearby hill.

1975 March 1st Interlaken. 8.00pm Chris Treloar and others at Lake Sorell for fishing first see a bright light shoot across lake about 20ft up. Soon after a yellow light appears above northern shore. This light performed erratic manouevres in the sky for several minutes then a bright light shot from below and behind the hills. The light then faded out.

1975 March 8th. Clyde River Bridge near Lake Crescent. Motorist sees bright ball of light crossing sky ahead, at same time a high pitched whirring sound is heard above the noise of the car. Light just above trees curves away to the west and goes out of sight.

1975 early September. Bradys Lake, Witnesses holiday shack lit up in early hours of the morning. Looks out and sees misty white light with orange-yellow light at centre, light at or near ground level near lakeside 150yds away. After 5 minutes light goes straight up into sky and all goes dark.

1975 October. Poatina Hills. Witnesses report seeing 6 to 8ft black figure bounding down hillside, say running too fast for a man. Very calm but soon after tree crashes over in area.

1976 January 28th. Allonah, Lynden Brown on holidays on Bruny Island, advises sister woke up family as orange light shining into room, also lit up yard outside. Witnesses saw sphere of orange light moving east north east then south, went behind hills.

1976 February 12th Magra. Two HEC linesmen notice object approaching from NW about 4.50am. It halts over Denmark Hill half a mile away, at first just two red lights with powerful rectangular white light in between. Then pulsing red, green, and blue lights come on above. Can see that UFO is approx triangular shape above, pulsing lights reflect on a shiny metallic type surface. Object moves off fast but returns shortly after. This time witnesses shine spotlight towards it, UFO shoots off diminishing to a dot in 2 seconds then is lost to view.

1976 NIVE HILL February 17th (to Berriedale) About 3.30am Mr. R. Wilson notices bright light to east when driving truck down Nive Hill. Light stationary till nears black bobs then it starts to pace truck. Speed of truck varies from 20 to 40 mph, UFO always maintains position to left despite changing direction in road. At Plenty Bridge stopped truck, UFO crosses road ahead, 250ft up, 200 yds off. Waits across Derwent River until witnesses continue on in truck UFO then returns to left of witnesses. After New Norfolk UFO passes in front of Mt Dromedary, now accompanied by small orange light below.

Transistor radio suffers static until object disappears in distant east near Berriedale at 6.00pm. UFO appears as very bright yellow white central dome with banana (ends pointing down) shaped body visible from bright light, body is brown colour.

1976 March 30th North Hobart. Mr. E. Goninon and wife see Venus sized dull red light to north west over Goat Hills going slowly north east. This goes out and is replaced by a brilliant white light, pulses and hovers for several minutes. Then UFO rises in sky before moving rapidly southwards and disappearing just north of Mt. Wellington.

ADVOCATE 10.4.76. A King Island duck shooter related an experience in the pre dawn hours of Saturday April 10th, as he waited for daylight on a remote part of the Island. He hadn't been there for 10 minutes when he saw a beam of light moving across a nearby hill. He knew there was no track and besides there was no sound. As he watched the light turned in his direction and he saw that its source was cross like, about the size of a small plane. It travelled nose down through the air and emitted an inverted cone of bright orange light.

When closest to him, the cone of light appeared to be 10m across at its base, and about 20m from its base to its source. It continued forward for nearly a minute, then reversed in a direct line and disappeared over the skyline.

The shooter thinks his car which was nearby, attracted the light, though unnerved by his experience, he waited at the spot until dawn, but had no heart for duck shooting. He didn't want to tell what he had seen. But curiosity got the better of him. He is anxious to know now whether any other early risers saw anything. (TUFOIC contacted King Island News but it seems there were no other reports).

DONT FORGET OUR NEXT MEETING ON JUNE 11TH, 8PM, AT SCOTS CHURCH ROOMS, rear of Scots Church in Bathurst St....Any queries ring Keith Roberts at home 23 6009..Please treat this as your meeting notice.

A tick on this line indicates your sub is now due. Thank you.....

TUFOIC, 366 Huon Road, South Hobart. Tas. 7000